Vancouver metro

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016

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Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016 High 12°C/Low 9°C Showers

Privacy problems

HOUSING

Landlords are crossing the line with questions, say renters

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver's extremely low vacancy rate has enabled some landlords to get very picky about who they rent to — and the probing questions and demands for personal information are now raising privacy concerns.

When searching for an apartment a year and a half ago, Cass Sclauzero encountered a prospective landlord who asked for three month's worth of bank statements as part of the application process. She and her partner decided they weren't comfortable giving that kind of information, and passed on the apartment.

"If you refuse, you don't get the apartment," Sclauzero said. "It's a Catch-22."

During her recent search for an apartment in South Surrey, Tannis Sullivan encountered several prospective landlords who asked for her social insurance number, driver's licence, and date of birth.

"They could easily steal your identity," Sullivan said.

"Not even an employer is allowed to ask you to confirm this information."

Some of the interviews she had with potential landlords also made her very uncomfortable.

"The kind of questions prospective landlords were asking were very probing, very invasive," Sullivan said.

"I had one prospective landlord say to me, are you a single woman?" When Sullivan said yes, "He said, 'I wouldn't want the neighbours complaining that there's another man coming to your house every week.'"

> **They could easily steal your identity. Not even an employer is allowed to ask you to confirm this information.**
> Tannis Sullivan

She passed on one apartment because the landlord wanted her to sign a tenancy agreement that would have required her to ask permission whenever she had a friend or relative stay overnight.

The experience was very different from what she recalls from looking for an apartment 20 years ago: "I remember it was so much easier," she said. "Landlords were never so crazy."

Then there are the demands some landlords feel they can make on tenants. One notorious Craiglist listing from late September asked for a tenant who doesn't cook, because the landlords are vegetarians who don't like the smell of meat — and whose "ideal tenant" is someone who rarely has friends over, "works lots" and is "barely home."

"You can't cook food? You have to be a certain kind of tenant ... you have to pay this much money for this (crappy) basement (suite), but not be around very much?" said Sclauzero, who featured the post on her @dearYVRlandlord Twitter account. "I don't think so."

According to B.C.'s Office of Information and Privacy, landlords are not supposed to ask for social insurance numbers, driver's licences, or banking information.

They can ask for a credit cheque or for information that confirms income — but the tenant has the right to remove information like the SIN from pay-slips or T-4 documents.

Landlords are encouraged to verify a tenant's identity before renting to them, and can ask to view a driver's licence as part of that identity check. But they're not supposed to copy the licence or write down the number, according to OIPC guidelines.

Both Sclauzero and Sullivan were searching for new apartments because they had been evicted after their landlords wanted to use the suites for family use; both are sceptical that family members actually moved in.

"To be evicted... and then to have to deal with the low tenancy rate and prospective landlords asking all this very, very personal information, " Sullivan said,

"And then exploiting their position to demand everything, anything — (it's) controlling behaviour in every respect."

Cass Sclauzero decided not to apply for an apartment after learning the landlord required three months worth of bank statements. JEN ST. DENIS/METRO

Education minister fires Vancouver School Board metroNEWS

A 'safe haven' for persecuted writers

SURREY

City to become International City of Refuge for artists

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Surrey is poised to become Canada's first official "City of Refuge" by offering a haven to one writer or artist fleeing their country as part of a 59-city worldwide effort.

The move to bring one refugee to the city on a sort of artist-in-residence fellowship, with support from the city's libraries, Simon Fraser University and Kwantlen Polytechnic University, will make B.C.'s fastest-growing municipality the third of its kind on the continent.

The designation was announced Monday as part of the opening ceremonies of the three-day Creative City Conference in Surrey this week.

"We'd like to bring a writer at risk because of their work to come to Surrey — who needs refuge because in their country they're not able to write freely," explained Surrey Coun. Judy Villeneuve, co-chair of the city's Local Immigrant Partnership committee, and was herself long-involved in the Writers' Union of Canada. "We want to be a beacon to other cities in Canada."

Surrey will become the third city in North America to join the International City of Refuge Network (ICORN), through which more than 120 artists under threat have already found safe haven — the others being Ithaca, New York and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Surrey Coun. Vera LeFranc added that the city's residents come from many places around the world, as illustrated by a City Hall installation involving 98 languages spoken in the city.

"It is already a refuge," she told Metro in a phone interview. "Given that our population is made up of such diversity, how can we lead by example — to make our city even more welcoming to people who really need it?"

Coun. Judy Villaneuve
DAVID P. BALL/METRO

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PRISONS

Province failing on how it jails women

British Columbia has received a failing grade on how it jails women, according to a new report from a top legal advocacy group.

West Coast LEAF provided Metro an exclusive look at the non-profit's annual report card, How is B.C. Measuring up in Women's Rights, which has tracked the B.C. government's performance on a range of issues impacting women.

All received a passing grade except provincial prisons, which incarcerate all inmates sentenced for less than two years as well as those held while awaiting trial.

"We gave prisons the worst grade because at least in other areas there were small areas of action we could point to, even if they were piecemeal," explained report author Kendra Milne, the organization's Director of Law Reform, in a phone interview. "With prisons, it was hard to point to any actions at all.

"The main actions were actually inaction."

She flagged several specific concerns among many problems, the "total failure" to address the overrepresentation of indigenous women and girls in corrections, the lack of a prison on Vancouver Island, and the B.C. Ombudsman's warnings this summer that B.C. has failed to adequately inspect its prisons for health and safety standards in the past 11 years.

That report, released by the Ombudsman in June, called for improved oversight of prison conditions, including for the extensive use of solitary confinement and other concerns. The Ombudsman recommended that, "By 2018, the inspection program is to be brought into compliance with new international minimum standards for the treatment of inmates."

But Milne argued that little had been done to further that aim despite being warned.

The public safety ministry could not be reached immediately for comment on Monday.

DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Kendra Milne of West Coast LEAF DAVID P. BALL/METRO

IN BRIEF

Homicide victim believed to be member of Hells Angels

Homicide investigators say a man killed in Langley was believed to be a "well-established" member of the Hells Angels motorcycle gang.

Cpl. Meghan Foster of the integrated homicide investigation team says 56-year-old Burnaby resident Robert Green was killed Sunday, but she declined to release his cause of death.

Langley RCMP say officers were called for a report of suspicious circumstances Sunday morning and found a male who had injuries consistent with foul play.

Foster says police believe the attack was targeted and want to speak with anyone who may have witnessed the homicide.

She declined to say whether an arrest has been made in the case, but did say that there are no direct links between the death and a shooting in Langley that left a Mission, B.C., man with non-life threatening injuries Sunday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Federal housing agency raises red flag about the state of the real-estate sector. **Business**

‘This was the only action I had’

SCHOOLS

Yet critics call move to fire board ‘hasty,’ ‘outrageous’

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

B.C. Education Minister Mike Bernier DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Trustees on the Vancouver School Board have been fired after months of controversy.

B.C. Education Minister Mike Bernier announced the board’s dismissal Monday, citing its refusal to pass a balanced budget June 30, ongoing allegations of workplace bullying and the result of an audit as his reason for making the move now.

“Let’s just say I received the report (from auditor Peter Milburn) on Saturday and the information within the report does not alleviate any of the concerns I had; it only deepened them,” Bernier told media. “This was the only action I had. It’s time to move on for the students of Vancouver.”

The Vancouver School Board was faced with a $27-million budget shortfall this year.

Instead of balancing the budget by making deep cuts, the trustees instead lobbied government for more funding and for the province to ease up on its goal of 95 per cent classroom utilization.

Bernier was in a position to legally fire the board — the only one in B.C. not to balance its budget, as required by law — then, but instead chose to appoint special advisor Milburn to conduct an audit of the board’s finances and operations.

In the meantime, the VSB had begun consultations on a plan to close as many as 11 schools but suddenly halted that process earlier this month.

During that time, six senior VSB staff went on medical leave while the B.C. School Superintendents Association wrote to Bernier alleging trustees had bullied staff and created a toxic work environment.

WorkSafe BC is currently investigating those allegations of workplace bullying.

Earlier on Monday, Non-Partisan Association trustees called on Bernier to “take action” against the Vision Vancouver and Green Party-led board and “end the toxic dysfunction.”

That call came as the board was set to finally pass a balanced budget Monday night.

VSB chair Mike Lombardi told media it was willing to pass a balanced budget now because of the prospect of accelerated seismic upgrades and increased funding for schools in a provincial election year.

> **We can’t trust any of the decisions that have been made to date.**
> Minister Mike Bernier

Bernier, however, said he had no confidence in the board’s decision making and has appointed former Delta school superintendent Dianne Turner as the board’s official trustee on a one-year term, which could be extended.

“When we look at years and years of a lack of decision making at the Vancouver School Board, I think we would all agree that we need to allow Ms. Turner time to go in and assess the situation,” he said.

“We can’t trust any of the decisions that have been made to date, any of the recommendations that have been made to date, discussions around Vancouver’s budget, around Vancouver school closures.”

New Democratic Party opposition leader John Horgan denounced the decision, saying the board was on the verge of passing a balanced budget, as directed by the province.

“This is a government that can do anything they want. Bernier acted in haste, in a way that can only lead to more conflict and controversy,” said Horgan. “They said they would make (the audit) public and now they’ve fired the board without anyone knowing what the content of that audit is.”

The school board has long accused the province of underfunding schools, while the province has argued Vancouver needs to make tough decisions as enrolment has declined by 6,500 students.

In a statement, Lombardi called Bernier’s decision “outrageous.”

“The people of Vancouver elected trustees to stand up for public education, not to do the provincial government’s dirty work of closing schools, cutting programs and selling off public assets to address a budget shortfall of their own making,” he said.

“After a decade of chronic underfunding by this provincial government, British Columbia now ranks second-to-last in education funding in Canada — after posting a B.C. budget surplus of nearly $2 billion.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

The City of Vancouver is hoping a newly created film commissioner role will help boost the city's booming film production, animation and digital effects industry.

"There are many factors that determines where this industry chooses to locate — it truly is a global business that we compete in every day," said David Shepheard, the city's new film commissioner.

It's a role common in cities like New York, Los Angeles and Toronto, but one that Vancouver has lacked until now. The local film industry would also like to see a film commissioner for British Columbia as a whole.

Shepheard was formerly head of film commission services for Film London and set up a film commission in Abu Dhabi, which, he said, was subsequently able to attract filming for movie franchises like Star Wars and the Fast and the Furious.

Representatives from several Vancouver companies said the commissioner role would be a single point of contact that would help co-ordinate their approach to bringing in more business.

"We've all lived through it when there's a downturn, and it's tough," said Glenn Ennis, a stuntman and co-owner of a robotic camera company called Peacemaker Filmworks.

"Knowing there's someone out there fighting for us to have stability and consistency in the industry is a great feeling to have when you're an individual performer."

Zoe Saldana, left, as Uhura and **John Cho** as Sulu appear in a scene from Star Trek Beyond, which was filmed in Vancouver.
KIMBERLEY FRENCH/PARAMOUNT PICTURES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Generous tax credits and the currently low Canadian dollar are part of Vancouver's draw, but they're not the only factors influencing producers and film executives, Shepheard said.

"The key questions that are deal making or deal breaking, factors that producers and production execs face every day are, can I get the support, is there access to studios, is there the right creative look, can I get local talent?" he said.

Vancouver is competing with growing film destinations like Berlin, a city that is benefiting from uncertainty over the United Kingdom's referendum to leave the European Union, Shepheard said. Vancouver will be aggressively competing for that "Brexit" business, McKay added. "We're going to be front and centre in that market," he said.

Vancouver's film industry was in the doldrums prior to 2014, when the dollar was high, but has seen explosive growth in the past two years, with 40,000 people directly employed by 1,000 studios and companies, according to the Vancouver Economic Commission.

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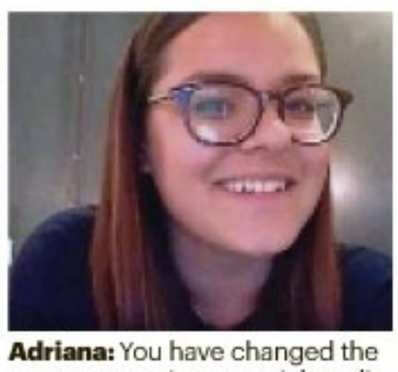
Devina: You have so much to offer from coast to coast. You're a beautiful country.

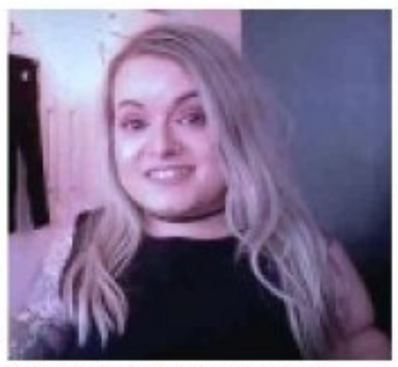
Margaret: You know, America. I think you're already great.

Zoe (left): We're big fans.
Ali (right): We like you guys.

Nick: Contrary to your reputation, America, you are some of the nicest people in the world. Maybe nicer than us Canadians.



Adriana: You have changed the way we experience social media. You have created an entire social network and social experience for all of us.



Belle: The attitudes and the accessibility around disability in your country is better than almost anywhere I've ever been.

Peter: What I like about the United States is the fact that you're such a giving nation. Over $250 billion a year is donated to charity and over 70 per cent of that comes from individuals.

Clay: America is a country has continuously changed, continuously evolved. It's never stayed still .

Love notes to the U.S.A.

ELECTION

Canadians gush about southern neighbours in new campaign

And now for something completely Canadian.

A Toronto-based creative agency called the Garden Collective has started up an online campaign to boost American self-esteem in the midst of a vicious presidential campaign.

The campaign, called #TellAmericaItsGreat, has been trending on Twitter since it was launched on Thursday with more than 100,000 shares. An accompanying video had more than 180,000 views on YouTube.

"Certainly the buzz is there," the Garden's co-founder Shari Walczak said in a telephone interview. "The momentum is building."

The title is a play on Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America great again."

According to the Garden's blog, the digital pep talk is meant as a balm to the "pretty scary realities" and "tremendous amount of negativity" exposed by the campaign, which continues for another three weeks.

"We wanted to do something positive," Walczak said.

The campaign notes that America has contributed to the world in music, movies, sports, science, technology, space travel, medicine, food, culture, shopping and social media.

The earnestness of the campaign is as Canadian as maple syrup.

"You guys are going to get someone to Mars," one fans remarks.

Yet another fan tweeted: "America, you gave the world cherry Coke & the internet & the Golden Girls. Don't let anyone tell you you're not great."

The campaign has garnered plenty of retweets and positive feedback.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Panel aims to explore youth employment

Canada could soon find itself facing unexpected economic and social fallout without a clearer picture of where and how young people are failing in the labour market, says the chairwoman of a new federal panel on youth unemployment.

A better understanding of why some young people can't get their foot in the door will be key to understanding whether Canadians will be able to afford a house in the future, or even afford their rent in six months' time, Vass Bednar said in an interview.

It could also offer a better idea of whether some are holding off on starting a family for fear of the cost of child care, said Bednar, associate director of the cities research program at the University of Toronto's Martin Prosperity Institute.

Bednar said there are no clear answers to helping more young people find jobs - there are different issues facing urban and rural youth, as well as unique barriers for indigenous youth. All this makes the panel's work that much more challenging.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Complex Mosul strategy

IRAQ

Officials worry the battle for second-largest city is rushed

Iraqi forces have launched their most complex anti-Daesh operation to date: retaking the country's second-largest city of Mosul.

While the country's military has won a string of territorial victories that have pushed Daesh out of more than half the territory the group once held, some Iraqi officials worry that the Mosul fight has been rushed and if the city is retaken without a plan to broker a peace, it could lead to more violence.

HOW WE GOT HERE

Mosul fell to Daesh in June 2014, when the extremist group blitzed across northern and western Iraq, overrunning nearly a third of the country.

Over the last year, Iraqi forces have steadily pushed Daesh out of most of the western Anbar province, including the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, and cut many of its supply routes to Syria.

TROOP BUILDUP

Iraqi forces began moving into Nineveh province to surround Mosul in July, when ground troops retook Qayara air base south of the city. Thousands of Iraqi troops are now massing there ahead of the planned operation.

Iraqi forces deploy in the area of al-Shourah, 45 kilometres south of Mosul. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

THE PLAYERS

In addition to the Iraqi army, Kurdish peshmerga forces, Iraqi special forces and Sunni tribal fighters, Shiite militias are also expected to play a role in the Mosul operation. The role of the Shiite militias has been particularly sensitive, as Nineveh is a majority Sunni province and the militias have been accused of carrying out abuses against civilians in other operations in majority Sunni parts of Iraq.

THE OPERATION

The fight to retake Mosul was largely launched from the north and east. The Kurdish peshmerga forces say they will push Daesh out of a cluster of mostly Christian and Yazidi villages northeast of Mosul along the Nineveh plain, while Iraqi military troops try to cut the main supply line northwest of Mosul that links Daesh territory in Iraq to its strongholds in Syria. A large number of Iraqi military forces are also expected to push up from Qayara air base.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Mosul is Iraq's second-largest city and still home to more than a million civilians. Both in terms of geography and population, it's a much larger task than Iraq's military has ever undertaken previously in the fight against Daesh. It's unclear how many Daesh fighters remain in Mosul, but even a few hundred could wreak havoc. Iraqi forces advancing on Monday found roads and fields littered with roadside bombs, and Daesh unleashed a series of suicide car and truck attacks on the advancing troops, a tactic it has used effectively in past battles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

Another ceasefire declared in Aleppo

Russian and Syrian forces will halt hostilities for eight hours in the eastern districts of Aleppo, Russia's military announced on Monday, a day on which opposition activists said their airstrikes killed at least 36 people, including several children, in and around the divided city.

The two militaries will observe a "humanitarian pause" between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Oct. 20 to allow civilians and militants safe passage out of the city, Lt. Gen. Sergei Rudskoi of Russia's general staff said in Moscow. Militants, the wounded and sick would be allowed to evacuate to the neighbouring rebel-held province of Idlib.

UN humanitarian officials have pleaded with combatants to observe weekly 48-hour ceasefires to allow humanitarian relief into the city's besieged eastern districts, but Russian and Syrian forces have only escalated their aerial and ground assault on the rebel-held areas in recent weeks. The airstrikes have claimed hundreds of lives, wounded many, flattened apartment buildings and laid waste to the already crippled medical sector.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Hitler's birth house to be torn down

The house where Adolf Hitler was born will be torn down and replaced with a new building, Austria's government announced Monday as it moved to eliminate the property's pull as a place of pilgrimage for neo-Nazis.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police investigating after father lists infant on eBay

German police say a 28-year-old man has admitted listing his infant daughter for sale on eBay but maintains that it was meant as a joke.

The 40-day-old girl was listed on the site last week at a price of 5,000 euros ($5,500). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Agency raises the red flag

REAL ESTATE

Affordability worries spill over from big city markets

The head of the federal housing agency is raising a red flag about the state of Canada's real estate sector, saying affordability concerns have spilled over from the country's two most expensive cities to nearby markets.

In an opinion piece, CMHC CEO Evan Siddall says the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will raise its overall risk rating for the national housing market to "strong" from "moderate" for the first time when it issues its housing market assessment on Oct. 26.

"Affordability pressures hurt lower-income households the most and cause real socio-economic consequences," Siddall wrote. "CMHC has recently observed spillover effects from Vancouver and Toronto into nearby markets. These factors ... will cause us to issue our first 'red' warning for the Canadian housing market as a whole."

Siddall said high levels of debt combined with rising house prices are often followed by contractions in the economy.

Siddall's comments came the same day new mortgage rules took effect.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ FOREIGN BUYERS

- Frank Wu, one of China's top real estate moguls, said Chinese investors have told him the 15 per cent tax on foreigners purchasing homes in Vancouver is discouraging them.
- The vice-president of the China Real Estate Industry Association is part of a Chinese delegation of billionaires touring Canada this week.

Wayne Gretzky sniffs a shot of his new No. 99 Canadian Whisky. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gretzky looking to score

It appears No. 99 is going to be on ice again.

After more than 10 years in the wine business with partner Andrew Peller Ltd., Wayne Gretzky launched his No. 99 Red Cask Whisky Monday at a private tasting in Maple Leaf Square's LCBO in Toronto.

The release is a hat trick of sorts for high-profile rye launches following offerings from rapper Drake and the Trailer Park Boys. The Great One's drink is priced at $34.95, midway between Liquormen's Ol' Dirty Canadian Whisky from the Trailer Park Boys at $29.95 and Drake's Virginia Black American Whiskey at $39.95. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Healthy lifestyle

The link between sugar consumption and increased body fat has long been known. Too much sugar in the diet promotes more insulin, the fat storing hormone, and thus more body fat.

THE SLIMMING EFFECT OF STABLE BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, October 18, 2016

EMMA TEITEL ON DRESSED-UP PETS

What, you may ask, happens at the 'largest dog costume parade in the world?' If you answered that dogs wear costumes, you'd only be half right.

On Saturday, scores of otherwise ordinary people will descend on Manhattan's Tompkins Square Park, with their dogs in tow, for the annual Tompkins Square Halloween Dog Parade.

The event, sponsored by Purina Beggin' (the makers of the popular canine treat "Purina Beggin' Strips Bacon"), is, according to CNN, the "largest dog costume parade" in the entire world. (And here I assumed it was the only one. Silly me.)

What, you may ask, happens at the "largest dog costume parade in the world?" If you answered that dogs wear costumes, you'd only be half right. In fact, dogs and dog owners dress up in costume at the T.S.H.D.P, usually together, as a theme.

The winners of last year's event, to illustrate, were a man and a woman who staged a chilling Day of the Dead tableau with their chihuahuas.

Mind you, if I had judged the parade, I would have given first prize to my favourite contestant: a bulldog in blond wig and pearls, i.e., Marilyn Monroe.

As for the be-wigged lapdog dressed up as Caitlyn Jenner in a sultry white number eerily similar to the frock the real-life Jenner donned on the cover of Vanity Fair, I have no words. This may be because the dog's owner, meanwhile, wore a "USA" tracksuit and imitation gold medal. (Presumably, he was channelling the ghost of the pre-Caitlyn Jenner, Bruce.)

All this is to say, with a universal eye roll, that people love their dogs (and possibly their pets in general) a lot. So much so, it turns out, that in exhibiting their love for their dogs, they tend to sacrifice their dignity in the process and as some of the scenarios above suggest, the dignity of their animals, too.

WHAT'S THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN? Treating our pets as extensions of ourselves might not be a great idea.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Until recently, I would have considered this sacrifice of dignity to be all in good fun. Notwithstanding the questionable Caitlyn Jenner lapdog getup, the whole Tompkins Square Halloween Dog Parade would have registered as a perfect example of a dignity-defying, weirdly healthy good time. Even the matchy-matchiness of the whole dog-owner pairings would have given me a good laugh, not unlike the laugh so many people got when Fido the phone company ran their now world-famous ad campaign in the late 1990s featuring dogs and owners who happened to look exactly like each other.

But there's a difference between the Fido ad animal/human likenesses and the Halloween dog parade likenesses: the first were happy accidents; the latter are calculated constructs. The former were coincidental; the latter are intentional. And the culprits behind the intent are we, the human half of the pair, the animal-owners. I say "we" advisedly. I am about to realize a lifelong ambition and become a dog-owner myself. And my impending ownerhood — a kind of parenthood — has me thinking that seeing our pets as extensions of ourselves may not be such a terrific idea after all.

The negative effects of this particular brand of anthropomorphism ("ascribing human qualities to animals") are already there if you look for them. In an article last month titled "Is Your Dog's Halloween Costume Sexist?" the Washington Post noted, tongue-in-cheek, that while retailers had finally started to abandon gender bias in Halloween costumes for young human girls, pet outlets like Petsmart or Baxterboo.com are still apparently gender-rigid in their Halloween togs, hyping certain costumes for male dogs (firefighter and police officer) and others for females (sweetheart nurse or French maid). That this was a ludicrous thing to be outraged by (something the right-wing site Breitbart pointed out, not getting the tongue-in-cheek part) was obvious, but it hid a kernel of truth: It's easy to overlook the indignity of dressing up your Scottish terrier as an extension of yourself for Halloween, but when we start extending our gender biases to pets, too, it starts feeling kind of creepy. Really, French maid dogs?

Other effects of human-to-dog extension are more substantially questionable. Just this past week, CBC news reported that between 40 and 50 per cent of all owned pets in Canada are overweight. The percentage of Canadian people over the age of 18 who are overweight? Between 40 and 50 per cent. Not only does Rover's face resemble ours these days, it seems; so does his spare tire.

And Australian cities have been experiencing a minor epidemic of abandoned pets in the recent past, at least partly the result of foreign students studying in Australia who neglect to take their dogs with them when they return home. These dogs aren't feral, just homeless, but to be homeless, you have to initially be given a home to lose. And who gives pets homes? Us.

So, I hereby make a pledge: I will do everything in my power not to make my dog homeless. And I will do everything I cannot to make him obese. But when it comes to Halloween, I make no promises. Tompkins Square Dog Parade, here I come.

When we start extending our gender biases to pets, too, it starts feeling kind of creepy. Really, French maid dogs?

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star.

Upcoming housing summit needs to include Vancouverites' voices

CITY HOLLER
Trish Kelly

You probably don't know this, but next week Vancouver is hosting is an international housing summit called Re:Address.

The weeklong event is being described as the first time the city will bring together 500 thought leaders and experts from around the world to discuss housing affordability. It's also intended to inform an updated version of the city's Homelessness and Housing Strategy.

It's good that so many international experts will be coming to Re:address; not only do we need help solving our housing crisis, but we also need them to fill the audience seats, as I'm pretty sure few others will be there.

Details about the event have been very slow coming. Press kits, with important info about dates and speakers were finally available late last week. Though that press kit tells me the opening reception is on Wednesday October 26th at the Museum of Anthropology, these details were still not posted on the event website at press time.

Tickets to the summit are hard to find. I think I'm pretty good at these internets, but in order to get a link for registration, I actually had to tweet to the city. While a companion series of free community events is easy to register for at readdress.ca, to get tickets to the actual summit is not possible from the event website. Once I got the link, I was able to confirm that tickets are $370, more than the welfare shelter rate in our province, and likely more than many Vancouverites, individuals or grassroots housing organizations could spend on a last-minute ticket to a conference on affordable housing.

Via Facebook, the mayor's office did confirm for me that a number of free tickets have been set aside for grassroots housing organizations or individuals who can't pay. Unfortunately, there is no info on these subsidized tickets on the event site, and so if you didn't read this column, or see that facebook message, you wouldn't know to write to housing@vancouver.ca to express interest in a free ticket.

Organizing big events is a lot of work, and it could be the lack of information is just a matter of the organizers biting off more than they can chew. You could just roll your eyes and write this off as a poorly organized TED Talk rip off and go back to doing what you need to do to pay the rent.

But whether the city intended to exclude local residents and frontline housing groups, or if it was just bad planning, it is a huge miss. Any conversation about affordable housing that doesn't include the voices of the people who are experiencing the crisis firsthand, is doomed to a flawed result.

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metro LIFE
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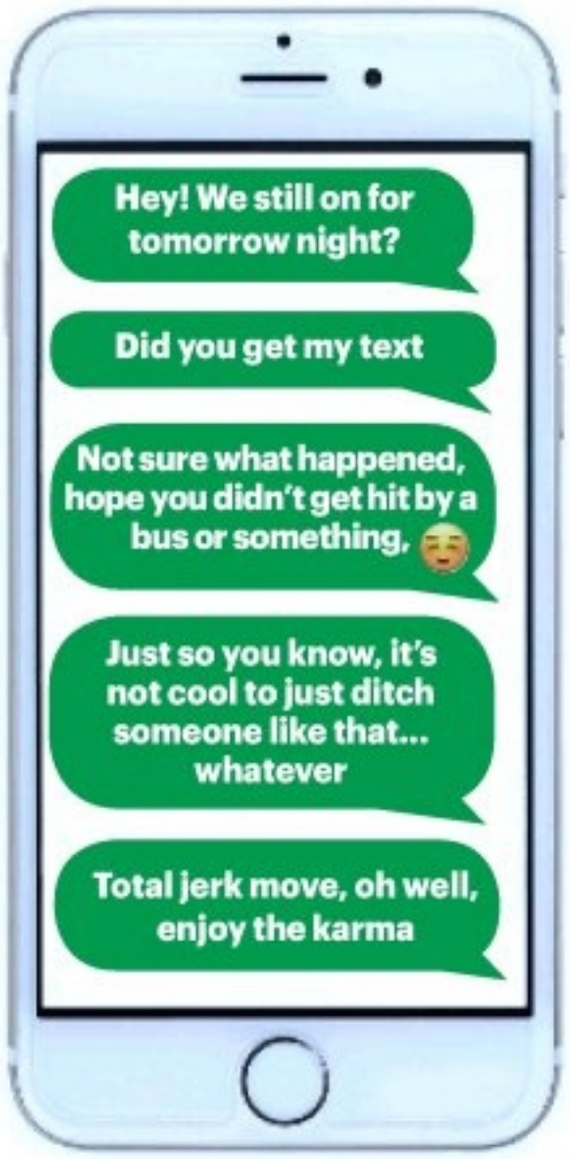
The scariest part of dating


Hey! We still on for tomorrow night?
Did you get my text
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Total jerk move, oh well, enjoy the karma

RELATIONSHIPS

Everyone in the new dating world is afraid of ghosts

Sofi Papamarko
For Torstar News Service

You may not believe in ghosts, but they assuredly walk among us.

The ghosts I'm talking about don't trudge around the attic in heavy chains or send your grandmother's fine bone china flying across the room, however. These ghosts are a little more ordinary. You've probably even encountered one. The dating world is full of ghosts.

Ghosting is the scarily common dating practice where the person you're seeing disappears from your life without warning or explanation. They simply stop responding to your calls, texts and emails.

One day, you're sharing a root beer float and petting cute dogs in the park. The next day, poof! They're gone. Vanished, like a ghost.

A few months ago, social media expert Terra Loire, 26, met someone on dating app Tinder. Everything was great, at first.

"We went out a few times — just casual dates like brunch and drinks. (We talked) about life and bonded over our cats. He would text me all the time and was very thoughtful. He drove the emotional part of the relationship by being very forward with his feelings for me, which I appreciated."

Social media specialist Terra Loire in Toronto has been a dating ghostee, where the other person just disappears or fades away. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

After a few weeks of schedules not aligning, they finally agreed on another date. He cancelled the day of, stating he was "tired." He was genuinely apologetic and promised to set up a date for the following week. She never heard from him again.

"Ghosting is frustrating," Loire says. "Especially when I work very hard to be honest and allow the other person opportunities to express their interest or disinterest in healthy ways. That should eliminate the need to ghost in the first place."

Ghosting is a cowardly and disrespectful move, to be sure, but in a world where we're accustomed to ending relationships with the literal push of a button (defriending, unfollowing, blocking), it makes sense. Ghosting is an easy and non-confrontational way to get out of something that's not working for you.

For the ghostee, it can be confusing, enraging and can even instill actual panic — did something happen to this person? Were they in an accident? Are they OK?

A friend recently asked me to check up on another friend of mine on social media to ensure he wasn't dead. He had told her he would call her soon to plan another date and she never heard from him again. According to recent Facebook photos of him drinking with friends, he was alive and well. He had simply ghosted.

Playwright Graham Isador, 27, has been both ghoster and ghostee.

After meeting an interesting and beautiful woman in another city, they kept in touch. It became clear to Isador after a return visit that they had very different expectations of the relationship.

Back in Toronto, he took longer to respond to her texts and was always "busy" when the phone rang. "I didn't handle that thing well," Isador admits. "I avoided conflict. I let things drift in that 'what happened' scenario that is intensely frustrating. When you don't know what happened, it's hard to get closure.

"I was trying to think of a comparison and the best thing I came up with is: pulling the band-aid off. Pulling it off quickly is going to hurt a bit. But if the alternative is leaving it on until the band-aid grows gross and dirty and eventually falls off on its own? It's pretty clear what to choose.

"I owe that girl an apology."

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What not to say to pregnant women

ADVICE

Etiquette experts on minding your manners

Ashley Greer
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

You waddle. You're so big. You're not big enough.

The list of rude comments people have made to Ashley Greer during her three pregnancies is long. "Never ever comment on (a pregnant woman's) size," says the Stoney Creek, Ont., resident, who's expecting her son Wyatt within weeks.

But when it comes to pregnancy etiquette, pointing out someone's size is just the tip of the rudeness iceberg.

From unexpected belly rubbing to questions about their birthing choices, pregnant moms face etiquette fails most people never have to deal with, leaving many questioning why they're stuck with those awkward moments in the first place. And when people aren't sure what to say or do when it comes to pregnancy, etiquette experts say the resulting rudeness from this common scenario puts undue pressure on moms-to-be.

"Pregnancy isn't easy," says etiquette and protocol consultant Lisa Orr. "It's an important task women play in society. As a community, we owe it to ourselves and these women to give them a little extra kindness."

Giving pregnant women a seat on public transit is one example of extra kindness, and it's a big focus in South Korea. In Seoul, you'll find pink seats designated for moms-to-be on public transportation, and in Busan, the city is testing out a wireless sensor device to alert transit riders that the person carrying the device has a baby on the way.

What's trickier to combat are the prying questions and insensitive judgments many moms face.

Tamara Robbins Griffith, a Toronto mother of two, faced a barrage of questions when she opted for a vaginal birth the second time around after having a Caesarian section for her first baby. Some people questioned why she'd want to do that, citing the possible complications. "I think it's rude when people make you feel like you're putting your unborn child at risk," she says.

Toronto mom Shana Tilbrook also recalls one weird experience at a party while she was pregnant. Someone asked to touch her belly, and she agreed. "He then stuck his face right up against my belly and started talking enthusiastically to my unborn baby for about a minute," she says. "It made me feel very awkward."

Another time, someone saw her from the back, and asked, "Are you sure you aren't having twins? You look like you are."

"You wouldn't comment on a non-pregnant woman's body, so why does that change when someone is pregnant?" Tilbrook continues. "You wouldn't touch someone's belly who isn't pregnant, (so) why touch the belly of someone who is?"

It's even more difficult when a pregnancy ends in loss. During her first two pregnancies, Greer had stillborn twin boys and a stillborn daughter, which prompted strange and awkward questions from friends and family: Was it something you did? Why do you talk about "them"? Since you won't be using your baby clothes, can I give them to my daughter?

With so many women facing this stuff, it's time for a reality check. We asked local etiquette gurus — including Orr, Louise Fox, owner of the Etiquette Ladies, and Torstar's etiquette expert Karen Cleveland — for their advice on the dos and don'ts of pregnancy politeness.

Don'ts

• Don't touch her belly. It might be tempting to reach out and rub a pregnant woman's belly, but this rule is simple: Don't do it. "Any kind of uninvited touching is inappropriate, whether it's your best friend or some stranger," says Fox. Even asking to touch someone can be awkward, so it's best to wait for a mom to offer.

• Don't offer unsolicited advice. "Don't tell her how amazing or awful your birth was. Or whether she should have a midwife, a doula, be in a hospital or go hug a tree," says Cleveland. "Truly: it's not your business."

• Don't comment on her size. Whether it's her body size or the shape of her baby bump, just zip your lips, according to Orr. "It's going to land in a negative way, and you're making a lot of judgments."

• Don't ask when she's due. One of the biggest mistakes you can make is asking someone's due date, says Fox. "But maybe they're not due," she says. "Maybe they're just a large person, or they put on weight, or they already had the baby." It's a recipe for awkwardness at best — and being totally insensitive and offensive at worst — so just avoid asking in the first place.

Dos

• Do give up your seat. Offering pregnant women a seat on public transit is both a polite gesture and a bylaw, says etiquette and protocol consultant Lisa Orr. And that means speaking up and encouraging people to offer a seat even if you're standing.

• Do offer to help. If someone close to you says they're having a baby, offer to help, be it giving them a ride if needed or babysitting when the bundle of joy arrives, suggests Fox.

• Do take cues from the mom. "If she's not taking the conversation too deep or intimate a place, follow her lead," says Cleveland. And if you're not sure what to say, keep it simple. "(Tell) the beautiful mom-to-be how awesome she looks and wish her the best of luck." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Improv key in mockumentary

Bob Balaban, Ed Begley Jr., Jane Lynch and Michael Hitchcock in a scene from Mascots, which premieres Thursday on Netflix. SCOTT GARFIELD/NETFLIX VIA AP

MASCOTS

Christopher Guest brings back regulars for furry flick

Consider comic actress Jane Lynch a weekend warrior.

The former Glee star says she logged scenes for the new Christopher Guest mockumentary Mascots on the weekends, in the same way she shoots her hosting gig on Hollywood Game Night.

It was because she was also working on her short-lived sitcom Angel From Hell at the time, and much of the rest of the sprawling Mascots cast similarly had competing jobs.

Perhaps that's why it took 10 years for writer-director Guest to again assemble his regular collaborators — including Lynch, Bob Balaban, Jennifer Coolidge, Parker Posey and Fred Willard — who also featured in the farces A Mighty Wind, Best in Show and most recently, For Your Consideration?

In Mascots, which premiered last Thursday on Netflix, the action centres on the outlandish world of sports mascots, a surprisingly competitive arena of sweaty fur suits and giant wobbling heads.

Guest trains his lens on a series of top mascots from around the world as they prepare to compete for the World Mascot Association's prestigious top honour — the Golden Fluffy.

Guest himself pops up as Corky St. Clair, the flamboyant small-town theatre director from 1997's Waiting for Guffman.

Lynch plays Gabby Monkhouse, whose alter ego Minnie the Moose was lead cheerleader for a junior college baseball team. Gabby has retired from the sport, but remains in the spotlight thanks to a bestselling inspirational book and a regular gig judging the high-profile championship.

Guest and longtime collaborator Jim Piddock provided the cast with a detailed outline of the story and characters — but no dialogue, says Lynch.

It's always risky to improvise dialogue, says Lynch, who adds that she and co-star Ed Begley Jr. did not speak before shooting their scenes. For Lynch, preparation was key.

"The great thing about these movies is there's no obligation to get to the point. (Guest) really wants you to linger and don't feel obliged to talk or make anything happen. Just be firmly rooted in your character, so that's why our work is done before we even start shooting," says the veteran comic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

SNL celebrates women turning the tide

THE SHOW: Saturday Night Live, Oct. 15 (NBC/Global/YouTube)
THE MOMENT: "Melanianade"

In a dead-on, black-and-white spoof of Beyoncé's Sorry video (from Lemonade), the women of SNL portray Donald Trump's female posse: wife Melania (Cecily Strong), daughters Ivanka (Emily Blunt) and Tiffany (Vanessa Bayer), campaign manager Kellyanne Conway (Kate McKinnon), and Apprentice star Omarosa (Sasheer Zamata).

Decked out in hair extensions, bejeweled leotards, furs, fishnets and French manicures, they ride in a limo, recline in Trump Tower-like rooms, and take a baseball bat to a TV screen bearing Trump's face (Alec Baldwin).

SNL always ups its game in election season, and this year they have an embarrassment of riches.

But this video is satire at its pinnacle. It combines an astute observation (The women in Trump's life act as a Fembot army to defend and humanize him) with a still-breaking news story (allegations of Trump's serial sexual abuse of women) and a cultural touchstone about another wronged woman (Lemonade) to point to the truth about this campaign: It's about women.

Abused women are speaking up and turning the tide. Women will decide this election. A woman could (will!) lead the U.S., and by extension, the world.

And SNL has the female cast, arguably its best ever, to make comedy that is pointed, necessary and certain to be legendary.

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‘Big Food Inc.’ latest target for celebrity chefs

HEALTH

Tapping into millennial distrust of the food system

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

Even professional chefs are sometimes baffled by our food production and distribution system.

“Why is a banana cheaper than an apple?” wonders Chuck Hughes, owner of Garde Manger and Le Bremner restaurants in Old Montreal, in an interview about his visit to a family-run canola farm in Saskatchewan this summer.

“An apple comes from my backyard and a banana doesn’t. There’s all these questions I don’t necessarily have the answers for,” adds Hughes, who this year has focused on sustainability through side projects like running a kitchen at Osheaga music festival where the theme was “buy less, waste less” and rock stars were served food in compostable containers.

Home cooks pushing a cart through aisles of their local grocery store can likely relate to Hughes’ confusion, as despite having more information than ever about our nutrition and the eco-footprint of the food system, it’s also more difficult to cut through the crap.

A study this past spring by the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity found 22 per cent of millennials said they thought the Canadian food system was headed down the “wrong track” when it comes to food safety, nutrition, the environment and animal welfare. This cohort had the highest distrust of the food industry compared to other demographics.

Chef Chuck Hughes visited a Saskatchewan canola farm to learn more about where food comes from. CONTRIBUTED

Chef Michael Smith’s new cookbook, Real Food, Real Good, is a back-to-basics takedown of what he calls ‘Big Food Inc.’ TORSTAR

An Ipsos poll from January declared a new breed of decision-makers was emerging, the “young educated millennial moms” who have more spending power and want to buy fewer processed foods. One in four Canadians was motivated to buy a food or beverage with simpler and fewer ingredients, double that of a year ago, according to the poll.

Hughes suggests consumers take brands to task if they aren’t following sustainability or nutritional guidelines in their ingredients list by writing to the companies and voting with their wallet. He also recommends an occasional trip to a farm, like he took with Hellmann’s to a canola field with “yellow flowers as far as the eye can see.” Those flowers are edible, as are their seeds (similar to mustard seeds), he learned, while playing a seed matching game with local children.

“We got to really see the whole process,” he says.

A back-to-basics theme is also evident in Real Food, Real Good, a new book by Chopped Canada judge Michael Smith. He says the topic has been a long time coming. “It really dates back 14 years when my son was born and I had a real epiphany about my true understanding of food,” he says. “I find myself at a point in my life where I’ve just lost patience. I’ve lost tolerance for beating around the bush. We have a flawed food system.”

The cookbook outlines ingredients to avoid, calling out marketing buzzwords like “natural” and “free-range,” and warns shoppers to be aware of “fabricated flavours” such as that of sugary breakfast cereals, margarine and bacon bits, for example.

Smith says his aim with the book is twofold: Show amateur cooks who now have a bit of momentum that great cooking doesn’t have to be complicated, and to call out what he refers to as “Big Food Inc.” for promoting unhealthy eating habits.

“Big Food Inc. is this horrendously pervasive idea that we have in this culture that processed food is actually an OK option, whether it’s now and then or every single day. It’s not OK,” he says.

To really hear Smith’s passion come through, just mention cauliflower.

Last year the vegetable made front-page news (including in this newspaper) when prices rose to $8 a head thanks to a low dollar and a drought in California that affected supply.

“It shouldn’t have been covered,” shouts Smith. “It’s ridiculous bull—. It wasn’t a story. Big freakin’ deal, cauliflower is expensive in the middle of winter. Really? What, is it a slow news week?”

What is upsetting to him is the promotion of the idea that healthy food is expensive.

“Food is less expensive now than ever before in the history of mankind. We spend less money on food than any culture in the history of the world, and yet we have food media and mainstream media that allows this pervasive belief that food is expensive. They are doing a disservice to Canadians.”

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Vancouver metro

LEARNING CURVE

Seeking out a study group

ISTOCK

Flipping through the 100th page of your history textbook, illuminated by the reading light in your lonely dorm room, your eye is caught by a scene across campus.

A window to the library showcases a study scene with multiple members, rallying together to retain classroom information. You begin to wonder if a study group might help to enhance your academic performance and if so, how will you begin to create your crew?

"When studying alone it's easy to become familiar with material because you've seen it before and know what to expect," says Jennifer Meister, academic skills program coordinator at McMaster University. "But being familiar with material doesn't necessarily mean you understand it."

"When you're studying with a group," continues Meister, "the material brought to the table will often be unexpected and presented in new ways."

She explains that this dynamic ensures that a student will be tested on how much they understand the material rather than whether they are simply able to identify it.

"Studies also show that one of the best ways to learn is to teach someone else. Study groups are a great place to do that."

Roxanne Ross, manager of the University of Calgary's student success center, encourages students to begin seeking out their student squad within learning portals created in the classroom.

"Post an invitation to other students via your course's learning management system," says Ross, who ensures that online forums are made available in the majority of today's post-secondary classes.

"Activities like collectively anticipating exam questions in a group can also be incredibly helpful," she adds. "This increases the likelihood that students will focus on the right study material."

Ross warns, however, to take care in the choosing of those you will cram with.

"Studying with friends can definitely pose challenges for staying on task," says Ross. "However, there are ways to ensure that work gets done and the interactions stay focused. We encourage students to assign a leader in the group for each session who will take on the responsibility of selecting review questions and keep everyone on task."

Meister adds that the amount of academics in your new found alliance must be taken into account. "Of course you'll want to work with people who go to class, finish their work, and want to do well," says Meister. "And remember that a good study group is usually between three to five members; more than that is just a party."

CONTRIBUTED

Take on a new career as a dental technician

The field of dentistry is supported by a host of in-demand jobs. If you have a technical mind and you enjoy hands-on work, the job of a dental technician may be for you.

It's a chance to find an interesting career, as well as a better salary. A dental technician in B.C. earns a median wage of $22 per hour, according to jobbank.gc.ca.

If you choose to work in this engaging field, you'll have the opportunity to work in a variety of settings, such as a dental laboratory, a dentist-owned clinic, a government-owned lab or a dental manufacturer and supplier.

To take on the job, you'll need specialized technical skills, such as how to fabricate, polish and finish complete dentures.

A dental technician has the chance to work with state-of-the-art technology to create dental appliances. You'll learn how to use digital technology such as tooth libraries and 3D designing techniques using solid modeling on dental anatomy.

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OPEN THE DOORS TO A CAREER AS AN ACCOUNTANT

When Nicole Kelemen, CPA, CA obtained her designation, she had no idea it would lead to a career at one of Vancouver's most well-known companies.

"The Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation really opens the door to any type of business. It taught me how to understand a business issue by asking the right questions and then analyzing possible solutions and making recommendations — the key to adding value to any employer," says Kelemen, who works as senior manager of corporate reporting and assurance at Hootsuite Media Inc., creator of the most widely used platform for managing social media.

Canada's pre-eminent professional business and accounting designation, CPA provides the highest level of strategic management and accounting training.

To earn the designation, students must have an undergraduate degree, 30 months of mentored, progressive practical experience, and complete the CPA Professional Education Program, which takes about two years, part-time.

"Very little of my time now is spent creating the numbers, but rather on figuring out how those numbers can help our business leaders run their business," says Kelemen. "Our finance team of CPAs is not only reporting numbers, but helping our sales team define the terms to close deals, negotiating cost savings with vendors and helping to design internal programs."

THE CPA PROGRAM DIDN'T NECESSARILY TEACH ME ALL THE ANSWERS, BUT IT DID TEACH ME HOW TO FIND ANSWERS TO THINGS I DIDN'T KNOW

– Nicole Kelemen, CPA, CA

Aside from contributing to a wide range of areas, Kelemen's CPA designation also prepared her for the challenges of working in a company that requires innovative thinking.

"The CPA program didn't necessarily teach me all the answers, but it did teach me how to find answers to things I didn't know," she says. "If you have the skills to find an answer to almost any problem thrown your way there is no limit to what you can do. Even on the finance team ... there is never a shortage of ideas for improvements.

"Hootsuite is a very cool company but even cool companies need to ensure their finances are in order — and the only way to do so is to hire people with the right qualifications."

You can begin your path to an exciting business career as a CPA by visiting goCPAbc.ca or attending an information session.

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A new career in the skilled trades

There's a growing need for skilled trades in British Columbia. If you're looking for a new career direction, becoming a tradesperson is a great option.

Plumbers are in high demand. The job requires knowledge in construction math and science subjects, plumbing materials and tools, and piping systems.

Practical skills are important too — a plumber needs to practice these right from day one. Those skills include how to build and repair a plumbing system.

A plumber in B.C. earns a median wage of $27 per hour, according to jobbank.gc.ca.

Electricians are equally in demand. Start your career as an apprentice, then grow to open your own business. As an electrician in B.C., you can earn a median wage of $27.90 per hour.

In both plumbing and electrician fields, safety practices are essential. A practicing tradesperson needs extensive, up-to-date knowledge of the safety practices in their field.

To get a well-paying job in either field, it's important to get the right skills and training. To start on the right path, take an intensive educational program.

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The Plumber Foundations and Construction Electrician Foundation programs at Vancouver Career College offer industry-standard training taught by qualified experts in their fields.

Both programs include a large practical component, so you're ready to take on an apprenticeship once you graduate.

Find out more about the program at Vancouver Career College online at study.vccollege.ca, or by phone at 1-800-993-4086.

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AN EXCITING TIME TO GET INTO ENTERTAINMENT

Michael Baser knows the entertainment industry inside out.

The Hollywood vet has written, created, produced and showrun classics such as Good Times and Full House. Today, he is the head of Vancouver Film School's (VFS) writing for film and television program, and says there has never been a better time to get into entertainment.

"There is a revolution happening in terms of delivery and how people are viewing content," he says. "When I started in 1973, there were three outlets for me to sell my materials to. Now, there are literally hundreds and they are all hungry. With this explosion of production, there are opportunities in every aspect of the industry."

VFS, offering 13 programs that range from digital design and film production to acting essentials and makeup design for TV and film, prepares students for their chosen career in a year.

Instructors are all working professionals and, says Baser, constant curriculum updates ensure relevance.

"Our school gives people the ability to deliver," he says. "It is not for hobbyists but rather for people who want to be in the industry. If you want to succeed, you have to put yourself in the way of success and be around like-minded people. One of the ways to do that is by coming to VFS."

VFS is on a cross-Canada road show of information sessions. It stops in Vancouver on October 29.

For more, visit vfs.edu/events/infosessions.

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH AND HANDS-ON LEARNING AT NYIT

Thanks to a unique aspect of the newly launched master of science in energy management (M.S.-EM) program at New York Institute of Technology's (NYIT) Vancouver campus, this September students didn't walk into their classrooms unsure of what to expect.

"Before classes started, we took students on a three-day retreat to build leadership through activities," says Remi Charron, the M.S.-EM program coordinator. "Energy management is broad in terms of what you can do, so students also got to tell faculty what they wanted to get out of the program, which could result in the tailoring of some projects."

Offered in full-time, part-time and standalone course formats, the M.S.-EM program's curriculum emphasizes original research and hands-on learning. It is based on the program established at NYIT's New York Campus more than 30 years ago.

"Our structure borrows from that base but was also adjusted to the local market so students get a good perspective on what is happening in B.C.," says Charron.

Students also have the opportunity to interact with industry through projects and

CONTRIBUTED

an optional co-op component — a combination Charron says sets them up for success.

"There is lots of interest in the program from industry partners," he says. "And with a focus on reducing greenhouse emissions and energy consumption, a lot of demand as well."

For more about this program or NYIT's other offerings, attend the school's open house on November 10.

EXPERIENCE A NEW KIND OF OPEN HOUSE

CONTRIBUTED

Forget what you think you know about post-secondary open houses. On Oct. 26, Vancouver Community College (VCC) will host an evening that replaces the typical lectures from department heads with free workshops, demos and entertainment to showcase its offerings to prospective students.

"This is our way of inviting prospective students into VCC, as we live and breath it," says Carolyn Hornell, a marketing and communications officer at the school, of the event which will take place between 4 and 7 p.m. at VCC's Downtown campus. "It's our first effort at engaging students in a way they want to be engaged. All 121 programs will be on site and each program will offer a tailored experience."

That means attendees interested in the baking and pastry arts program, for example, will have the opportunity to tour the school's kitchens and decorate cupcakes with baking and pastry arts teachers and students, while those who are considering jewellery art and design will make a simple copper ring and those whose interest lies in auto collision will paint hot rod flames with a spray gun.

"People who sign up for a workshop in advance will automatically be entered to win a $500 tuition credit," says Hornell. "But, of course, they can also just drop by without signing up."

In addition to workshops, which will run hourly, the Downtown campus's atrium will feature a main stage with a new event every 20 minutes as well as an array of student services so attendees can have all of their questions answered about everything from counselling to disability services and career services. Current students will also be on hand to answer questions.

Anthony Rizzo and Addison Russell, the Cubs duo that totalled 204 regular-season RBIs, are a combined 2 for 45 through six playoff games

Bloody frustrating

Bruce Arthur

In Game 3 of what might be the last stand for the Toronto Blue Jays, Cleveland's starting pitcher had to leave after four batters. Trevor Bauer's drone-mangled stitched-up pinky finger couldn't hold together. He was wiping it on his shirt; it was dripping like a horror-movie faucet; there was blood spatter on his pants. The mound was basically a crime scene. Four batters in, he had to leave.

But Toronto is the one bleeding. Down 0-2 in the American League Championship Series, they couldn't wait for Cleveland's pitchers to eventually burn out, one by one. They couldn't hope to burn out of a bullpen for future. They needed Game 3.

They didn't get it. The bats were meek again, and the pitching finally cracked a little, and all of a sudden they are staring down the edge of the void. With two on and two outs in the seventh, their last best chance was a Josh Donaldson liner, but it was caught by a sliding Coco Crisp. Cleveland's Cody Allen had 32 saves this season, but there he was in the seventh and the eighth. Cleveland manager Terry Francona was composing a managing opera, and the soloists could move around.

In the eighth, Allen got Edwin Encarnacion on the way to an 0-for-4 day, and then got Troy Tulowitzki to strike out looking.

And then came Andrew Miller, baseball's reaper of the moment. He is death with a slider. He struck out Russell Martin on four pitches to end the eighth, and then came the last stand. Dioner Navarro singled to lead off. Then Kevin Pillar, strikeout on three pitches, Melvin Upton Jr., strikeout on five pitches. Darwin Barney, the last man, thrown out on a grounder up the middle.

Toronto lost 4-2 and now Cleveland is a game away from the World Series, and Game 4 is Tuesday afternoon. The Jays aren't dead yet, but they're the ones bleeding after three games.

GAME 3 In Toronto

4	2

Bruce Arthur is a sports columnist with the Toronto Star

Jays right-fielder Jose Bautista misplays a Mike Napoli RBI double in the first inning of Game 3 of the ALCS on Monday night in Toronto. TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Red Wings destroy Sens

Mike Green had the best game of his career offensively, allowing Detroit Red Wings fans to truly celebrate the last home opener at Joe Louis Arena.

Green scored three times for his first hat trick and Darren Helm had two goals to help Detroit beat the Ottawa Senators 5-1 on Monday. The Red Wings are leaving the venue they have called home since 1979 next year for a new arena.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cardinals easily beat Jets

David Johnson rushed for 111 yards and three touchdowns, and the Arizona Cardinals shut down the listless New York Jets 28-3 on Monday.

Johnson became the first player to rush for three scores against the Jets since LeSean McCoy did it five years ago. The Cardinals (3-3) won their second in a row to climb back to .500.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Avalanche edge Penguins

Gabriel Landeskog redirected a shot by Nathan MacKinnon past Marc-Andre Fleury 22 seconds into overtime to lift the Colorado Avalanche by the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3 on Monday.

Landeskog tied the game with 6:32 left in regulation with a power-play goal and his second of the night handed the defending Stanley Cup champions their first loss of the season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Kyrgios banned for conduct
Nick Kyrgios will miss the rest of the season after being banned and fined by the men's tour on Monday for "tanking" a match and insulting fans in the mercurial Australian's latest run-in with tennis authorities.

The ATP said Kyrgios was sanctioned for "conduct contrary to the integrity of the game" following an investigation into his behaviour during a second-round loss at the Shanghai Masters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

United keep in-form Reds' attack at bay in 0-0 draw
Manchester United blunted Liverpool's prolific attack as England's two most illustrious teams toughed out a 0-0 draw in the Premier League on Monday.

United manager Jose Mourinho's tactics of containment worked well at Anfield. David de Gea in was fine form, with the Spain goalkeeper producing excellent saves to deny Emre Can and Philippe Coutinho in the second half.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

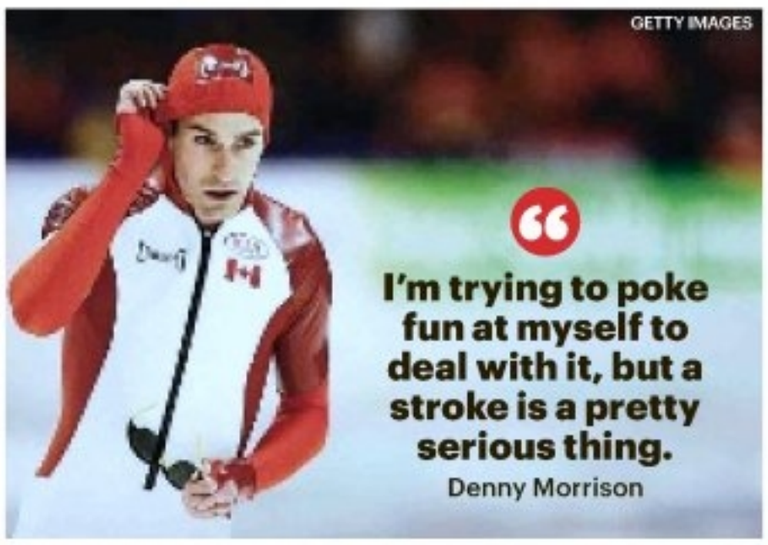
St. Pierre now a free agent
Former UFC welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre says he is no longer under contract with the UFC and is a free agent.

The 35-year-old Montreal fighter, who has been on hiatus since November 2013, has been campaigning for a return to action.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Morrison makes his return to ice

SPEED SKATING

Olympic hero posting PB times after stroke scare



The words "you don't have to come back and see me ever again" from his neurologist was Denny Morrison's green light to get back to what he loves.

Less than six months after suffering a stroke, the owner of four Olympic speed skating medals is back racing.

Morrison didn't start pushing his heart rate to the maximum until last month, but he put down the fastest 3,000 metres of his life on Sept. 30.

The 31-year-old from Fort St. John, B.C., will race the 1,000 and 1,500 metres — in which he won Olympic silver and bronze respectively in 2014 — at this week's national team trials in Calgary. The trials determines Canada's team for the first four World Cups this season.

Morrison was buoyed by Monday's training session. He saw progress in his starts and accelerations, which were elements he wasn't even allowed to train until recently.

"I can tell you I feel more race ready after doing some of these aggressive starts and aggressive accelerations behind these sprinters," he said.

"It feels like I skated a personal best today, which is why I'm in a good mood right now."

Morrison's emotions are more in flux post-stroke. In conversations, he'll search for the odd word that has escaped him. Humour is his coping mechanism. Morrison jokes he could be in a bad mood by the end of the interview, but he's spent enough time with other stroke victims since his own to know it is no laughing matter.

"I'm trying to poke fun at myself to deal with it, but a stroke is a pretty serious thing," he said. "I'm looking forward to working more with the Heart and Stroke Foundation to raise awareness for the signs of stroke."

He's re-started a comeback that began after a motorcycle accident in May, 2015. He sustained a concussion, a punctured lung, a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his knee, bruised liver and kidneys and a small fracture in a bone near his spine.

Morrison raced for the first time after that accident March 18 at a Canada Cup. Just over a month later, he and girlfriend Josie Spence biked 25 days on the 1,200-kilometre Arizona Trail. En route back to Canada, Morrison began slurring words and fumbling for his sunglasses with his left hand. He was hospitalized for a few days in Salt Lake City before returning to Calgary.

Two stents were surgically implanted in his neck in June.

"Blood pressure going high with these stents in your neck that close to your brain is a bit of a risk factor for stroke," Morrison said. "How do you keep your heart rate low if you want to train to make a comeback for speedskating?"

He was initially limited to gentle bike riding. When he was allowed to increase his heart rate, it was in five-per cent increments with coach Bart Schouten checking his heart-rate monitor after every hard effort.

"After the motorcycle accident, I could push myself as hard as my pain tolerance will allow and my heart rate, there was no limitation really,' Morrison said. "With the stroke . . . I could not raise my blood pressure and potentially have one of these stents come lose and travel into my brain and kill me."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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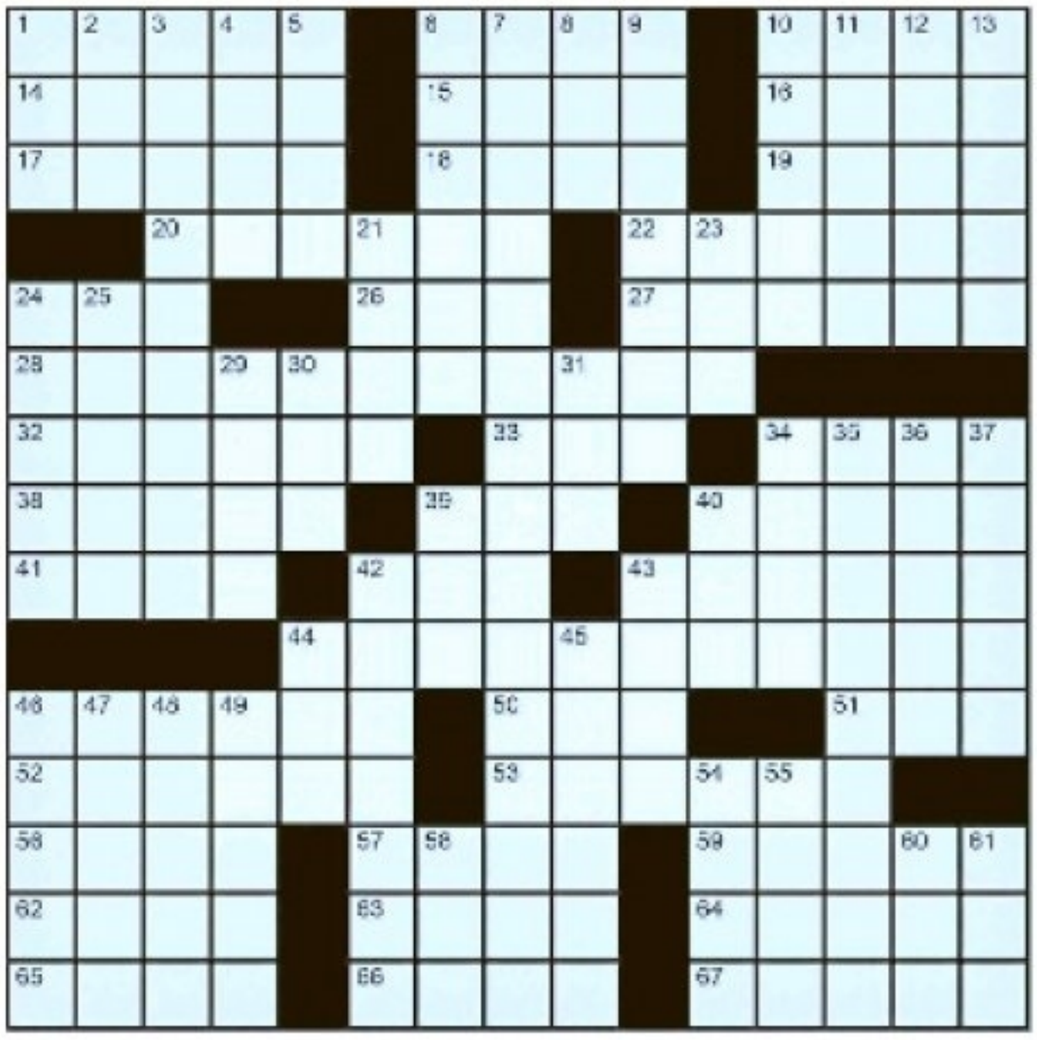
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. Montreal borough
6. Takes to the stage in a way
10. Taxis
14. The other 'Stooge'
15. __ of paint
16. Friendly nation
17. As, in code
18. Tip-top
19. Tartan-wearing bunch
20. French composer Cesar
22. Floating, as lily pads on the water's surface
24. Highest playing card
26. I + II's sum
27. Settle the deal
28. Montreal-based hair care company
32. Guarantee
33. 4 qts.
34. Commissioner Gordon's li'l force
38. Author's idea
39. Diving bird
40. Cow, when making its familiar cow noise
41. Without
42. Fragment
43. Incumbency
44. Stand-up/improv/sketch venue in downtown Montreal
46. 1984 Kim Mitchell album: '__ Alogo'
50. Frostiness
51. Mr. Cobb, and others
52. Reveal the imposter's identity
53. Unwavering
56. Spaces
57. Give off
59. Like Romaine lettuce
62. Pre-day nights
63. Court plea, __ contendere
64. Country icon Mr. Haggard
65. Depend on
66. Univ. treatise
67. Supplement: 2 wds.

DOWN

1. Snug __ _ bug
2. Vancouver Canucks org.
3. Big avenue in Winnipeg
4. Mr. Epps
5. _-_-daisy!
6. Giraffes like munching on this tree
7. Spatulas and tongs: 2 wds.
8. Beige
9. Painter's pattern producer
10. Some succulents
11. 'A' of E.A.P.
12. Cartoons voicer Mel
13. New Wave instr.
21. Gracious
23. "__ in the Family"
24. Accumulate
25. __ del Sol (Region of Spain)
29. Bear: French
30. Weep
31. Home's railing wood
34. "__ __ further." (Don't take another step)
35. Palace's posh 'patio' place
36. Upbeat/cheerful
37. Put on an outfit
39. Direct
40. Kitten cry
42. Library shelf support
43. Kind
44. Radio types, e.g.
45. "__" and "__"
46. Drilled-hole maker
47. Between 10-and-a-Queen fellow
48. Press onward
49. Big amount-ish
54. Soprano Ms. Gluck
55. Good gesture
58. Me: French
60. "Alice" waitress
61. Pine

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You are ambitious today! Whatever you want, you will do anything within your power to get. (Everyone else better step aside!)

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Avoid controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues today, because they will quickly degenerate into a nasty argument. People are intense and ruthless today!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Disputes about shared property and inheritances might be problematic today. Neither party will budge. Caution: You might increase opposition to yourself.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Be patient with partners and close friends today in order to avoid a conflict. This is the kind of day where people are just downright pushy.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You are prepared to work hard today to get what you want. Nothing will stand in your way, because you will plow ahead regardless of what you encounter. Do not alienate co-workers.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Romance is passionate today. However, it also can be a bit thoughtless and insensitive. Don't accept treatment that makes you feel bad. You don't deserve this.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
To avoid family conflicts today, use your energy to fix up where you live. Make improvements. You especially can make a positive difference in laundry areas and bathrooms.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a powerful day for those who sell, market, teach, act or write because not only are you persuasive, you are impossible to resist. You will say what you mean and mean what you say!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Disputes about money and possessions are likely today. Try to avoid these if you can, because they will be nasty. Go gently.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Take a realistic look in the mirror and ask yourself what you can do to improve your appearance. After all, you never get a second chance to make a first impression.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You might be in conflict with a friend today or a member of a group because you don't agree with how things are going. If you are outnumbered, take a step backward.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You can use today's energy by working quietly with great purpose behind the scenes, or by working alone. Do not get caught up in the drama of others.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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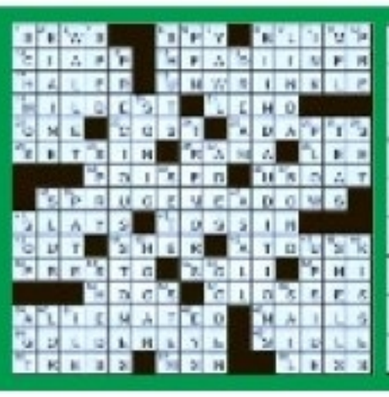

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